

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

VIA : Assistant Director, ORR
Chief, Geographic Research, ORR
Chief, Geography Division, ORR

16 October 1953

Evaluation of CIA/RR-G-11, Physical and Cultural Geography of
West China, Kansu, Sikiang, Tsinghai, and Northwestern Szechwan

1. This excellent research paper adequately indicates the acute problems which Communist China will have when it attempts to assimilate the many and varied minority groups in West China. The requester, who has already received advance copies, has indicated a high degree of approval and appreciation.

2. The intelligence material available for West China is fragmentary and largely unrelated. For this reason, direct verification of information is seldom possible and verification procedures were incorporated into the methodology of the report. An attempt was made to restrict the subject matter of the report to elements in the physical and cultural geography of West China that were relatively stable and subject to a minimum of physical or cultural change. As the report was organized, those elements were related to one another in a methodological framework. The resulting relationships comprise the three major problems of the report: environmental adjustment, cultural contact and conflict, and social control; the rest of the methodology is the degree to which it reasonably explains those relationships. Conversely, individual items of intelligence are considered insofar as they are consistent with the basic assumptions of the methodology. The weak points of the methodology are: a. its logic is somewhat circular, b. the basic assumptions upon which the validity of the methodology rests are based upon intelligence which usually cannot be directly verified, and c. the verification of further intelligence information depends on basic assumptions which may not be entirely true.

3. I feel that any general intelligence report on West China is of special interest to anyone in the intelligence community who deals with the area. It will be of only general or passing interest to individuals concerned primarily with industrialized East China.

CIA/RR-G-11

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SECURITY INFORMATION

4. The collection and organization problems of this report were complex and made the estimation of deadlines difficult. The more remote and exotic the area, the greater should be deadline leeway.

25X1A9a
[REDACTED]

1 Enclosure:
CIA/RR-G-11

ORR:D/CG: [REDACTED]:ne 25X1A9a

Distribution:

- 1 - Ch/G
- 1 - D/CG ✓
- 1 - CG/F
- 1 - CG/R
- 1 - chrono

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~